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Jill Mottorn

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MORE GREAT GOPHERS: SEE THE GOVERNMENT BURROW

By Jill C. Mottorn

See the dog jump in a circle. Leave her home to entertain editors vigorously. What?! If you'll remember back to the civics class you took in high school, this is an easy way to remember the departments of the Executive Office of the United States Government, in the order in which they were established. State, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health, Housing, Transportation, Energy, Education, Veterans Affairs.

There are a great many sources of government information available on the Internet at non-government and government sites.

As you might recall from "Top Ten List of Good Gophers," (*Library Management Quarterly*, volume 17, number 2. Spring 1994. pp. 13-15), gophers are menu-driven, allowing users to hit "enter" at a selected item from the gopher's menu, or its corresponding number, and burrow through the system. Use the "u" key, for up, to go in between files, and, once you've located the information you need, hit the "m" key if you would like to mail the document to your email account.

Here are some of my favorite government gophers:

Department of State

gopher.info.usaid.gov

Path: Protecting the Environment//
Energy//Private Power in Developing
Countries

Check out the U.S. Agency for
International Development's mission
statement for aid for energy
development in developing countries.

Department of Defense

gopher.umslvma.umsl.edu

Path: The Library//Government
Information//Area Handbooks//Country
Studies//Army Area Handbooks

These are the full texts of the Country
Studies. Gopher for the country profile
of that exotic locale before you head
there for your vacation.

Department of Justice

gopher.vacsc2.albany.edu

Login: www

Path: U.S. Supreme Court Decisions,
Recent

Look over the final resolutions from
Justice Harry Blackmun in his last days
as a Justice of the Supreme Court.

Department of the Interior

telnet cast.uark.edu

Login: NADB

Dig into the National Park Service's National Archeological Database to download a technical report from a recent archeological survey.

Department of Commerce

gopher gopher.lib.umich.edu

Path: Social Science

Resources//Economics//Economics

Bulletin Board//Industry Statistics

Search for information on the iron and steel industry in the Department of Commerce's Economic Bulletin Board (EBB).

Department of Labor

gopher umslvma.umsl.edu

Path: The Library//Government

Information//Occupational Outlook Handbook

Look in the Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook for the forecast for information professionals.

Department of Health and Human Services

gopher gopher.nih.gov

Path: Health & Clinical

Information//AIDS Related

Information//CDC Daily

Summaries//CDC National AIDS

Clearinghouse

Check the National Institutes of Health's gopher for recent AIDS statistics and educational materials.

Department of Transportation

gopher gopher.brown.edu

Path: Providence Local and Regional

Information//AMTRACK Schedules

After checking the Amtrack schedule, go

up to Hotels and Bed and Breakfasts in Rhode Island and make your reservations for accommodations for the Newport Jazz Festival this summer.

Department of Energy

gopher gopher.ornl.gov

Path: Technical Research//Catalog

Look through the catalog of technical reports from the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Department of Education

gopher gopher.ed.gov

Path: Department-wide initiatives//Goals 2000 Initiatives

Browse the overviews and fact sheets to learn more about the recently signed Goals 2000.

Environmental Protection Agency:

gopher ecosys.drdr.virginia.edu

Path: Education: The EcoGopher//

Environmental Library//Environmental Factsheets

Download articles and factsheets on air pollution, climate, energy, hazardous wastes, and other environmental issues from the Environmental Protection Agency and other organizations dedicated to protecting the environment.

General Accounting Service

gopher wiretap.spies.com

Look for ordering information for recent reports from GAO.

Library of Congress

gopher marvel.loc.edu

Path:

The gopher at the Library of Congress will permit you access to a number of gophers and bulletin boards at other

sites, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Census, and the Food and Drug Administration.

White House

president@whitehouse.gov
vice-president@whitehouse.gov
Save a tree and a stamp -- email Bill and Al.

Congress

Legislation:

telnet locis.loc.gov
password: federal legislation
Search legislative histories for legislation from 1973 (93rd Congress) to the present (103rd Congress).

gopher gopher.lib.umich.edu
Path: Social Science
Resources//Government & Politics//U.S.
Government Resources:
Legislation//U.S. Congress: Committee
Assignments
Check to see the who's on the Senate's
Sub-Committee on Superfund, Recycling
and Solid Waste Management.

As you can see, there is a cornucopia of government information just ripe for tapping in the 'Net. U.S. Federal Government Information by Maggie Parhamivich, Government Documents Librarian at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, and Government Information by Blake Gumprecht, Documents Librarian at Temple University, provide a more

comprehensive look at government information available on the Internet. To obtain copies of either of these bibliographies, or other lists of Internet-accessible information by subject, gopher to gopher.lib.umich.edu (Path: General Reference Resources//Internet Guides and Resources//Subject-Oriented Internet Research Guides). Many government departments and agencies also have bulletin boards that are publicly accessible. Try gophering to gopher.panix.com to access PANIX's list of government bulletin boards.

To cut down on the time it takes to peruse gopherspace for one particular item, you may consider doing a veronica search, which literally searches all of gopherspace using keywords that you input. Veronica sites can be located from the file "Other gopher sites," which generally appears on the first file of any gopher.

The best Internet instruction comes when you sit down and play with the Internet -- hands on is the best way to learn what's "out there" and how to navigate your way around the Internet. I also recommend these references:

Dern, Daniel: *The Internet Guide for New Users*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ : PTR Prentice Hall. 1994.
Hahn, Harley: *The Internet: Complete Reference*. Berkeley, CA : Osbourne McGraw-Hill. 1994.
Hahn, Harley: *The Internet Yellow Pages*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ : PTR Prentice Hall. 1994.
Krol, Ed: *The Whole Internet: User's Guide and Catalog*. Sebastopol, CA : O'Reilly & Associates. 1994.

Additionally, there are several good references for the new Internet user on the Internet. These are generally located in the gopher's reference collection, and they are often well marked. Some that I recommend are:

Big Dummy's Guide to the Internet by Adam Gaffin.
Internet Basics by Roy Tennant.
Surfing the Internet by Jean Armour Polly.

All of these are available from the gopher at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, sunsite.unc.edu
// Internet Dog-Eared Pages (Frequently Used Resources)// Guides to the Internet.

(Jill Mottorn anticipates graduation from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science in August 1994.)

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